

SUSTAINABLE, DURABLE DECORATIVE PANELS OPEN UP A WORLD OF DESIGN POSSIBILITIES!

2020 Surface & Panel Buyers Guide



THE SPECIFIERS AND USERS GUIDE TO COMPOSITE PANELS AND DECORATIVE SURFACES!

COMMERCIAL • RESIDENTIAL • HOSPITALITY • HEALTHCARE • RETAIL • ORGANIZATION • EDUCATION • EXTERIORS



The 2020 Surface & Panel Buyers Guide, sponsored by the Composite Panel Association (CPA), provides the most comprehensive product and specification information available for North American composite panel and decorative surfacing materials. Design solutions are featured within, showcasing a wide array of standard and specialty products.

DECORATIVE SURFACES

Decorative surfaces offer nearly limitless options for stylish design, functionality and reproducibility. They are used in a wide variety of wood-based applications, including cabinets, mouldings, flooring, furniture, countertops, store fixtures, doors and shelving across a wide variety of environments. Composite panels provide an ideal substrate for decorative surfaces—affordable, consistent, uniform in strength and free of defects.

Decorative surfaces can be broadly separated into two categories: overlays and coatings. Overlays include thermally fused laminate (TFL), film overlays (3D laminates, 2D laminates, etc.), decorative foils, high pressure laminates (HPL), light basis weight papers, wood veneer and heat transfer foils. Coatings are utilized in both liquid and powder forms.

Contemporary decorative surfaces have reached a new level of realism. Deep textures, sophisticated matte and gloss finishes have an appeal which improves on natural materials with superior fidelity and durability. Decorative surfaces are enthusiastically accepted by consumers worldwide. Architects and designers now specify without hesitation, knowing that any “look and feel” is achievable, and more importantly desired in both residential and commercial environments.

NORTH AMERICAN COMPOSITE PANELS

North American wood-based composite panels, such as medium density fiberboard (MDF), particleboard, engineered wood siding and trim (EWST) and hardboard provide architects, designers, specifiers and manufacturers with a unique and unmatched combination of design capability, quality and sustainability. They can be engineered to meet any project requirement. Customers can specify physical and mechanical properties, as well as surface characteristics, to create end-products with ideal attributes.

By their very nature, North American composite panel products are also among the greenest materials in the world and a great choice for environmentally conscious consumers. Detailed information on the sustainable attributes of composite panels can be found on pages 8 and 9 of this Guide.

ENVIRONMENTAL CREDITS AND CERTIFICATION

Choosing North American composite wood products can help the design and build community earn points toward major environmental building certification programs, including the most prominent U.S. green building certifications: USGBC LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) v4 Rating System, Green Building Initiative (GBI) Green Globes and National Green Building Standard (NGBS).

Designers and builders should also ask for composite wood panels with the CPA 4-19 Eco-Certified Composite (ECC) Sustainability Standard seal, the world’s leading sustainability certification standard. The certification process includes an on-site evaluation and subsequent yearly audits and is based on life cycle inventory and other verifiable environmentally responsible practices.



The program highlights the responsible use of wood fiber by composite panel manufacturers in North America and includes the CPA Carbon Calculator, an expert tool developed to assess the life cycle and carbon footprint of composite panels. For more information about ECC and a detailed list of environmental certifications where specifying composite panels can help earn credit, please see pages 8 and 9.

SECTIONS OF THIS GUIDE

- **SELECTING COMPOSITE WOOD PANELS** details the sustainable attributes of these substrates (*pages 8-9*).
- **SPECIFYING SURFACES & PANELS VIGNETTES** provide examples of applications in specific environments (*pages 10-25*).
- **PRODUCT DESCRIPTIONS** detail the characteristics of the materials, common applications and key physical properties (*pages 36-66*).
- **PRODUCT GUIDES** provide company-specific product information for the major manufacturers and suppliers of these panel and decorative surfacing products, including designations for Eco-Certified Composites (ECC) and no-added formaldehyde (NAF) and Ultra Low Emitting Formaldehyde (ULEF) products (*pages 84-97*).
- **SALES CONTACT INFORMATION** is an alphabetical list of all panel and decorative surface companies listed in the guide (*pages 98-100*).

ABOUT THE COMPOSITE PANEL ASSOCIATION

Founded in 1960, the Composite Panel Association (CPA) is dedicated to advancing the North American wood-based panel and decorative surfacing industries. CPA represents both industries on technical standards, industry regulation and product acceptance.

CPA General Members include the leading manufacturers of MDF, particleboard, engineered wood siding and trim, and hardboard (representing more than 95% of North American manufacturing capacity). CPA Associate Members include manufacturers of decorative surfaces, furniture, cabinets, mouldings, doors and equipment, along with laminators, distributors, industry media and adhesive suppliers.

CPA is a vital resource for both manufacturers and users of industry products. CPA compiles and reports on proprietary industry economic performance data and technical bulletins on the use of industry products and other educational materials. As a highly regarded and accredited standards development organization, CPA publishes the industry’s American National Standards (ANS). CPA also operates the International Testing and Certification Center (ITCC) and manages the Grademark Certification Program, the largest and most stringent testing, inspection and certification program for North American composite panel products.

CPA offers extensive information about the products referenced in this guide and the composite panel industry at CompositePanel.org.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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